

2. SUMMARY OF PUBLIC REVIEW PROCESS

2.1 NOTICE OF PREPARATION / INTENT AND SCOPING

The EIR/EIS process for the MARS Cabled Observatory Project began with distribution of a Notice of Preparation by the CSLC, mailed on May 25, 2004, and publication of a Notice of Intent by the MBNMS, published in the *Federal Register* on May 25, 2004. Two public scoping meetings to solicit public and agency input on the appropriate range of issues and alternatives to be examined in the EIR/EIS were conducted on June 9, 2004, at Moss Landing Marine Laboratories (MLML) in Moss Landing, California.

2.2 DRAFT EIR/EIS PUBLIC REVIEW

In March 2005, a Notice of Completion/Notice of Availability was distributed announcing the release of the Draft EIR/EIS. The Notice summarized the conclusions of the Draft EIR/EIS and included information on how to access the Draft EIR/EIS. It also presented the date, times, and location of the Public Hearings on the Draft EIR/EIS.

The Draft EIR/EIS was released for public review on March 11, 2005, and consisted of approximately 460 pages with appendices, including a detailed analysis of impacts in nine environmental disciplines. A summary of public involvement opportunities during the Draft EIR/EIS review period is presented below. A list of persons, organizations, and public agencies commenting on the Draft EIR/EIS, the comments received on the Draft EIR/EIS, and responses to the comments are provided in Section 3 of this Final EIR/EIS.

Public Review Period

In compliance with the CEQA and NEPA procedures, the CSLC and MBNMS provided a public review period of 45 days for the Draft EIR/EIS. The public review period extended from March 11, 2005, to April 26, 2005. The lead agencies allowed written comments on the Draft EIR/EIS to be submitted by mail, orally at the Public Hearings, via e-mail, and in person to the CSLC office in Sacramento and MBNMS office in Monterey.

The comments received by the CSLC and MBNMS during the public review period and at the Public Hearing are reproduced in this Final EIR/EIS along with responses to comments (see Section 3).

1 **Public Hearings**

2 Two Public Hearings on the Draft EIR/EIS were held jointly by the CSLC and MBNMS
3 on April 7, 2005, at the Moss Landing Marine Laboratories in Moss Landing, California.
4 At these hearings, the public was given the opportunity to ask questions about the Draft
5 EIR/EIS and present oral and/or written testimony on the Draft EIR/EIS and its contents.
6 The decision-making processes of the CSLC and MBNMS were also explained at the
7 Public Hearings.

8 **EIR/EIS Information and Repository Sites**

9 Placing the CEQA/NEPA documents in “repository” sites can be an effective way of
10 providing ongoing information about the project to a large number of people. Therefore,
11 five repository sites in the vicinity of the proposed Project area were established, and
12 documents are also available at the CSLC office in Sacramento. EIR/EIS-related
13 documents including the Draft and Final EIR/EIS have been made available upon their
14 release to the public at the locations listed below.

CSLC, Attn: Stephen L. Jenkins or
Michelle Brown
100 Howe Ave., Suite 100-South
Sacramento, CA 95825
(916) 574-1814

MBNMS, Attn: Deirdre Hall
299 Foam Street
Monterey, CA 93940
(831) 647-4207

Monterey Co. Library, Pajaro
29 Bishop Street
Pajaro, CA 95076-5266
(831) 761-2545

Monterey Co. Library, Castroville
11266 Merritt Street
Castroville, CA 95012-3420
(831) 633-2829

Central Library
224 Church Street
Santa Cruz, CA 95060-3810
(831) 420-5700

Monterey Public Library
625 Pacific Street
Monterey, CA 93940
(831) 646-5601

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